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LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

Gayle P. Truly, Secretary

DECEMBER, 1987

RELEASE DATE:
January 25, 1988

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1987				REVISED NOVEMBER 1987				REVISED DECEMBER 1986			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,952.4	1,739.6	212.8	10.9	1,976.2	1,766.0	210.2	10.6	1,961.0	1,698.5	262.5	13.4
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	62.2	56.4	5.8	9.3	62.8	57.2	5.6	9.0	60.5	54.2	6.3	10.4
Baton Rouge 2/	268.2	243.2	25.0	9.3	269.9	245.6	24.3	9.0	263.8	235.6	28.2	10.7
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	71.4	62.4	9.0	12.6	72.3	63.3	9.0	12.4	75.9	61.7	14.2	18.7
Lafayette 4/	101.4	90.8	10.6	10.4	102.6	91.9	10.7	10.5	104.3	88.3	16.0	15.3
Lake Charles 5/	77.3	68.0	9.3	12.0	77.8	68.3	9.5	12.2	73.9	63.3	10.6	14.4
Monroe 6/	70.9	64.2	6.7	9.5	71.8	65.0	6.8	9.4	70.5	63.1	7.4	10.5
New Orleans 7/	601.4	544.9	56.5	9.4	607.0	550.0	57.0	9.4	598.7	533.7	65.0	10.9
Shreveport 8/	165.3	147.6	17.7	10.7	167.6	150.5	17.1	10.2	167.0	145.7	21.3	12.8

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the state during December was estimated at 1,512,000, an increase of 1,100 employees from November's revised level and 2,600 above December a year ago. An increase in retail trade payrolls was mostly responsible for the higher level of employment in nonmanufacturing for December. Manufacturing employment was lower for the current month mainly due to the decrease in the nondurable segment.

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Employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, estimated at 77,300 for December, was 600 higher than the November revised figure and 6,200 above the year ago figure. An increase in transportation equipment was centered in the ship and boat building and repairing segment. Employment edged up for fabricated metal products, machinery, excluding electrical, electric and electronic equipment and other durable goods.

Total nondurable goods employment for December, at 93,800, was down by 1,200 from the November revised level and down 1,400 from last month's level. A seasonal decrease in food and kindred products employment was due to less activity in vegetable canning and sugarcane processing.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during December was estimated at 1,340,900, up 1,700 from November's revised level but 2,200 below the comparable period a year ago. Mining employment was up due to an increase in the exploration for oil and gas. Construction lost 100 employees. Less business for the state's ports was largely responsible for the decrease in transportation and public utilities. Trade employment for December was up as both wholesale and retail segments experienced increases. The upturn in finance, insurance and real estate employment was due to increased business for credit agencies other than banks. Decreases in business services, amusement and recreation services, and educational services contributed to the downward fluctuation of services employment. The increase in government employment was centered in state education.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 124,600 production workers in manufacturing increased from $448.38 in November to $457.10 in December, an increase of $8.72, but a decrease of $0.21 from December of last year. Average hourly earnings were $0.13 higher in December than last month, and seven cents higher than December a year ago. Weekly hours averaged 42.6 during December, an increase of 0.3 hours from last month's figure.

Total unemployment for Louisiana stood at 212,800 in December, an increase of 2,600 above the November revised level of 210,200. The unemployment rate for December was 10.9 percent compared to 10.6 percent for last month and 13.4 percent for December a year ago. The comparable national unemployment rate for December was 5.4 percent compared to 5.6 percent in November and 6.3 percent for December of last year. The state's civilian labor force moved from 1,976,200 in November to 1,952,400 in December, a decrease of 23,800. Total employment for Louisiana went from 1,766,000 in November to 1,739,600 in December, a drop of 26,400.

The state's unemployment rate should increase in the upcoming months. Nonmanufacturing and manufacturing employment is expected to fall in January.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change from Nov. 1987	Net Change from Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,512.0	1,510.9	1,509.4	+ 1.1	+ 2.6
MINING	60.9	60.4	58.6	+ 0.5	+ 2.3
Oil and Gas Extraction	58.1	57.6	55.8	+ 0.5	+ 2.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	85.2	85.3	85.7	- 0.1	- 0.5
MANUFACTURING	171.1	171.7	166.3	- 0.6	+ 4.8
Durable Goods	77.3	76.7	71.1	+ 0.6	+ 6.2
Lumber and Wood Products	11.8	11.8	12.0	0	- 0.2
Furniture and Fixtures	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.8	5.9	6.0	- 0.1	- 0.2
Primary Metal Industries	3.1	3.1	3.0	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	12.9	12.8	11.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.4	9.3	8.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.4	7.3	7.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Transportation Equipment	23.8	23.5	19.7	+ 0.3	+ 4.1
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.3	2.2	2.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	93.8	95.0	95.2	- 1.2	- 1.4
Food & Kindred Products	21.1	22.1	22.6	- 1.0	- 1.5
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.4	8.5	8.0	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Paper & Allied Products	12.1	12.1	12.1	0	0
Printing & Publishing	9.6	9.7	9.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	25.3	25.3	25.6	0	- 0.3
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.8	12.7	12.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Petroleum Refining	11.9	11.9	11.6	0	+ 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.5	4.6	4.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	106.4	106.8	105.9	- 0.4	+ 0.5
Railroad Transportation	5.3	5.3	5.5	0	- 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	59.7	60.2	59.0	- 0.5	+ 0.7
Water Transportation	23.7	24.2	23.2	- 0.5	+ 0.5
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	41.4	41.3	41.4	+ 0.1	0
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.1	18.1	18.5	0	- 0.4
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	23.3	23.2	22.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	365.5	361.8	369.8	+ 3.7	- 4.3
Wholesale Trade	80.3	80.0	81.9	+ 0.3	- 1.6
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	44.1	43.8	45.5	+ 0.3	- 1.4
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	36.2	36.2	36.4	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	285.2	281.8	287.9	+ 3.4	- 2.7
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	63.4	60.8	63.8	+ 2.6	- 0.4
Food Stores	57.3	57.1	57.5	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	29.4	29.5	30.1	- 0.1	- 0.7
Eating & Drinking Places	81.7	81.7	83.6	0	- 1.9
Other Retail Trade	53.4	52.7	52.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.5

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change from Nov. 1987	Net Change from Dec. 1986
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.4	83.3	84.7	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Banking	25.2	25.3	26.1	- 0.1	- 0.9
SERVICES	320.2	322.7	315.6	- 2.5	+ 4.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	24.9	24.9	22.9	0	+ 2.0
Personal Services	14.6	14.7	14.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Business Services	54.4	55.0	54.1	- 0.6	+ 0.3
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.6	9.4	9.7	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Repair Services	7.2	7.0	6.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.9	9.8	8.9	- 0.9	0
Health Services	98.7	98.6	96.3	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Legal Services	15.0	15.2	14.4	- 0.2	+ 0.6
Educational Services	20.1	21.2	21.6	- 1.1	- 1.5
Social Services	19.1	18.9	18.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Membership Organizations	25.3	25.6	25.4	- 0.3	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Services	16.5	16.5	16.1	0	+ 0.4
GOVERNMENT	319.3	318.9	322.8	+ 0.4	- 3.5
Federal	35.6	35.6	36.1	0	- 0.5
State and Local	283.7	283.3	286.7	+ 0.4	- 3.0
State	103.4	102.9	102.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
Local	180.3	180.4	183.8	- 0.1	- 3.5

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$457.10	$448.38	$457.31	42.6	42.3	42.9	$10.73	$10.60	$10.66
Durable Goods	410.18	403.50	402.27	42.2	41.3	41.6	9.72	9.77	9.67
Lumber & Wood Products	358.28	347.65	335.24	43.8	42.5	41.8	8.18	8.18	8.02
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	368.15	365.60	353.19	40.4	40.0	37.1	9.09	9.14	9.52
Fabricated Metal Products	439.53	432.06	418.61	45.5	45.1	45.9	9.66	9.58	9.12
Machinery, ex. Electrical	402.04	403.18	455.27	43.7	42.8	43.4	9.20	9.42	10.49
Electric & Electronic Equip.	464.36	471.86	451.91	38.0	37.9	38.2	12.22	12.45	11.83
Transportation Equipment	441.41	428.65	437.85	41.1	39.8	41.7	10.74	10.77	10.50
Nondurable Goods	498.93	487.03	502.92	42.9	43.1	44.0	11.63	11.30	11.43
Food & Kindred Products	316.35	324.41	332.51	41.9	44.5	44.1	7.55	7.29	7.54
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	210.50	200.83	215.74	39.2	38.4	40.4	5.37	5.23	5.34
Paper & Allied Products	591.82	577.40	588.07	44.1	42.3	43.4	13.42	13.65	13.55
Printing & Publishing	389.50	387.20	391.02	38.0	40.0	38.6	10.25	9.68	10.13
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	713.44	698.98	717.78	45.5	45.3	46.7	15.68	15.43	15.37
Petroleum & Coal Products	670.21	644.84	689.30	44.8	43.6	46.2	14.96	14.79	14.92
Petroleum Refining	676.85	651.20	705.09	44.5	43.5	47.1	15.21	14.97	14.97
MINING	565.25	552.46	564.04	47.1	47.3	47.2	11.90	11.68	11.95
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	504.78	535.60	512.23	39.1	40.0	39.8	12.91	13.39	12.87
BANKING	262.33	260.84	269.70	37.8	37.8	39.2	6.94	6.74	6.88

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 124,600 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 94,200 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 12 87				REVISED 11 87			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	23,200	19,900	3,300	14.2	23,625	20,350	3,275	13.8
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,800	8,575	1,225	12.5	9,850	8,625	1,225	12.5
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	6,175	4,525	1,650	26.7	6,175	4,775	1,400	22.8
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	15,650	12,925	2,725	17.5	16,325	13,775	2,550	15.7
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	15,200	13,550	1,650	10.9	15,475	13,850	1,625	10.5
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,550	5,800	750	11.5	6,600	5,900	700	10.6
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,425	3,825	600	13.6	4,525	3,925	600	13.2
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,475	4,000	475	10.8	4,575	4,100	475	10.2
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,375	3,450	925	21.2	4,500	3,700	800	17.9
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,825	7,025	800	10.1	7,875	7,075	800	10.0
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	9,775	8,375	1,400	14.4	10,075	8,825	1,250	12.5
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	12,850	11,375	1,475	11.5	13,000	11,650	1,350	10.4
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,350	3,500	850	19.4	4,225	3,625	600	14.2
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,750	7,775	975	11.1	8,925	8,000	925	10.2
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	13,125	11,425	1,700	13.0	13,825	12,100	1,725	12.5
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,225	6,925	1,300	15.8	8,525	7,275	1,250	14.6
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,775	5,900	875	12.9	6,875	6,050	825	11.9
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	26,100	22,200	3,900	14.9	26,650	22,575	4,075	15.3
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,775	9,925	1,850	15.8	11,950	10,100	1,850	15.5
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,700	7,000	700	9.1	7,625	7,000	625	8.3
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	13,050	11,200	1,850	14.3	13,450	11,575	1,875	13.9
JENA (LASALLE)	6,700	6,025	675	9.9	6,850	6,175	675	9.9
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,225	17,250	975	5.3	18,600	17,600	1,000	5.4
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,925	4,900	1,025	17.4	6,100	5,125	975	15.9
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,300	10,475	1,825	14.8	12,500	10,775	1,725	13.9
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,000	15,300	1,700	10.0	17,225	15,625	1,600	9.3
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	9,350	8,200	1,150	12.3	9,525	8,350	1,175	12.2
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	7,825	6,425	1,400	17.8	7,925	6,675	1,250	15.8
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,675	3,950	725	15.4	4,550	4,075	475	10.6
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,800	7,450	1,350	15.3	9,075	7,775	1,300	14.3
MANY (SABINE)	10,050	9,125	925	9.3	10,100	9,200	900	8.9
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,825	2,450	375	12.9	2,875	2,550	325	11.6
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,450	7,075	1,375	16.2	8,525	7,200	1,325	15.4
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	33,650	28,350	5,300	15.8	34,200	28,850	5,350	15.7
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	24,175	20,075	4,100	17.0	24,775	20,475	4,300	17.4
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	39,700	34,550	5,150	13.0	40,400	35,300	5,100	12.6
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,300	2,850	450	13.8	3,500	3,075	425	12.1
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,475	7,450	1,025	12.1	8,675	7,675	1,000	11.6
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	20,375	17,100	3,275	16.1	20,900	17,600	3,300	15.8
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	19,650	17,925	1,725	8.8	20,075	18,300	1,775	8.8
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	18,625	16,500	2,125	11.4	18,925	16,775	2,150	11.3
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,050	16,525	2,525	13.3	19,150	16,725	2,425	12.6
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,875	3,750	1,125	23.1	4,975	4,000	975	19.6
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,325	3,950	375	8.7	4,400	4,050	350	7.9
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,825	5,275	550	9.3	5,925	5,400	525	8.7

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	46.4	46.4	46.2	0	+ 0.2
MANUFACTURING	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.5	2.5	2.6	0	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.3	11.1	11.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	9.1	8.9	9.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.3	2.1	2.3	+ 0.2	0
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Other Retail Trade	3.6	3.6	3.5	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.6	2.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
SERVICES	11.3	11.4	11.0	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Health Services	4.7	4.7	4.4	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	12.7	12.9	12.9	- 0.2	- 0.2
Federal	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.0	10.2	10.3	- 0.2	- 0.3
State	4.8	4.9	5.0	- 0.1	- 0.2
Local	5.2	5.3	5.3	- 0.1	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area was estimated at 46,400 for the month of December. This was the same as November and 200 more than December of last year.

Employment in manufacturing was estimated at 3,300 during December. This estimate was unchanged since November and 100 less than December of last year. The change occurred in lumber and wood products.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 43,100 during December. This estimate was the same as November and 300 more than last December. Since last month there were increases in retail trade and finance, insurance, and real estate with corresponding losses occurring in government and services. Since December of last year, employment has increased in wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; services; and federal government. Employment declines occurred in state and local government, and construction.

During the next thirty days seasonal changes are anticipated, with employment in retail sales and outdoor related employment declining.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	216.3	216.1	214.3	+ 0.2	+ 2.0
MANUFACTURING	19.2	19.3	19.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.0	0	+ 0.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	0.9	0.7	0	+ 0.2
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	14.9	15.0	15.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.9	2.0	2.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.4	10.4	10.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	21.4	20.9	20.0	+ 0.5	+ 1.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.4	10.4	10.4	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	53.6	53.3	52.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade	11.3	11.3	11.1	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.4	7.4	7.5	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.9	3.9	3.6	0	+ 0.3
Retail Trade	42.3	42.0	41.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.2	13.3	13.4	- 0.1	- 0.2
Banking	3.7	3.8	4.0	- 0.1	- 0.3
SERVICES	42.1	42.3	41.3	- 0.2	+ 0.8
GOVERNMENT	55.5	55.7	56.5	- 0.2	- 1.0
Federal	2.3	2.2	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	53.2	53.5	54.3	- 0.3	- 1.1
State	32.0	32.3	33.0	- 0.3	- 1.0
Local	21.2	21.2	21.3	0	- 0.1

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**
11 MANUFACTURING (1)	$543.15	$526.38	$513.36	42.5	42.9	41.5	$12.78	$12.27	$12.37
Petro-Chemicals	727.89	701.61	721.43	46.6	45.5	47.4	15.62	15.42	15.22

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA, at 216,300 during December, was up 200 from the revised estimate for November and up 2,000 over the comparable period a year ago.

Employment in manufacturing, at 19,200, was down 100 during the current period and up 200 over the year ago estimate. Durable goods showed no change. Nondurable goods were down due to seasonal drops in sugar and confectionery products.

Total nonmanufacturing was up 300 during December. Construction was up due to more business in heavy construction, except highway and street construction and in miscellaneous special trade contractors. Retail trade was up due to more business in department stores. Finance, insurance and real estate were down due to less business in commercial and stock savings banks. Services were down due to less business in automotive repair shops, in miscellaneous amusement and recreation services, and in nursing and personal care facilities. State government was down due to staff reductions in nursing and personal care facilities, in elementary and secondary schools, and in other state government agencies.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge LMA's 12,500 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $543.15, up $16.77 from the revised November average. Average weekly hours, at 42.5, were down 0.4 hours, and average hourly earnings were up $0.51 per hour. More overtime by higher paid employees in the petro-chemical industry contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents, at 243,200 during December, was down 2,400 from the revised November estimate. Unemployment, at 25,000, was up 700 during the current period. The unemployment rate was 9.3 percent, compared to 9.0 percent for November and 10.7 percent for December a year ago. Baton Rouge's civilian labor force was 269,600 during the current period.

Seasonal drops in employment and increases in unemployment is expected during the coming months.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 3,875 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 670 applicants in jobs during December.

The consumer price index for November, 1987 for all urban consumers was 345.8 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 340.4 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	52.3	52.4	53.4	- 0.1	- 1.1
MANUFACTURING	4.3	4.4	5.1	- 0.1	- 0.8
Durable Goods	2.8	2.7	3.1	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	1.5	1.7	2.0	- 0.2	- 0.5
MINING	5.9	6.0	6.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	1.3	1.3	1.5	0	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.1	6.1	6.0	0	+ 0.1
Water Transportation	4.0	4.0	3.7	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.5	13.4	13.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	10.9	10.8	10.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.3	2.5	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	8.3	8.2	7.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.7	11.0	- 0.1	- 0.4
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	10.2	10.3	10.5	- 0.1	- 0.3
State	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	+ 0.1
Local	6.9	7.0	7.3	- 0.1	- 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in December was 52,300, down 100 from November. Decreases in manufacturing, mining and government offset scattered increases elsewhere.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,300 in December, down 100 over the previous month. Durable goods was up 100 from the previous month. The nondurable goods segment was down 200 over the previous month due to decreases in the seafood industry and sugar cane processing. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is down 800.

Mining eased down as the oil and gas industry made adjustments necessitated by winter weather conditions. Construction showed no overall change. Transportation and public utilities held steady. Retail trade displayed a normal seasonal upturn, mostly in general merchandise and apparel stores. Finance, insurance, and real estate exhibited no change over the previous month. Services were boosted by an overall seasonal increase spread through several segments. Local government tapered off slightly.

Estimated unemployment in December remained at the same level of 9,000 as in November. A decrease in the labor force due to seasonal factors helped bring a higher percentage of unemployment. Unemployment presently comprises 12.6 percent of the labor force compared to 12.4 percent in November and 18.7 percent in December of last year. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 1,328.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to exhibit normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will make typical downward adjustments following the close of the holiday season. Construction and mining will be hindered by winter weather conditions. Unemployment will probably show some increase.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	84.6	84.3	84.6	+ 0.3	0
MANUFACTURING	6.0	6.1	5.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.7	4.5	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
MINING	11.0	11.0	11.4	0	- 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	3.4	3.4	3.2	0	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.4	6.3	6.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	22.4	22.1	22.5	+ 0.3	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade	5.0	5.0	4.9	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	17.4	17.1	17.6	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.1	3.0	3.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food Stores	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	9.9	9.7	10.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.9	3.9	4.0	0	- 0.1
Banking	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	18.3	18.3	17.6	0	+ 0.7
GOVERNMENT	13.2	13.2	13.5	0	- 0.3
Federal	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
State and Local	12.4	12.4	12.6	0	- 0.2
State	5.5	5.5	5.3	0	+ 0.2
Local	6.9	6.9	7.3	0	- 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette labor market area was estimated at 84,600, an increase of 300 from the previous month, but 300 below the December 1986 figure.

Transportation and public utilities increased by 100 from November's estimate but is still down by 200 from a year ago. Wholesale and retail trade rose by 300 due to seasonal hiring. All other segments of the economy showed little or no change from the November 1987 estimate.

The unemployment rate should increase slightly next month due to inclement weather and the end of the Christmas season.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	59.2	58.9	56.8	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
MANUFACTURING	11.0	10.9	8.6	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	0.6	0	+ 2.3
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.7	2.7	0.4	0	+ 2.3
Nondurable Goods	8.1	8.0	8.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.3	7.2	7.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	4.9	4.7	5.0	+ 0.2	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.1	14.0	14.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	11.2	11.1	11.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.4	2.3	2.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.2	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.1	3.1	3.0	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
SERVICES	10.7	10.8	10.5	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.6	0.5	0.6	+ 0.1	0
GOVERNMENT	10.7	10.7	10.7	0	0
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
State and Local	10.0	10.0	10.0	0	0
State	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0
Local	6.3	6.3	6.3	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles LMA was estimated at 59,200, an increase of 300 from last month's estimate and 2,100 above the December 1986 figure.

Manufacturing showed an increase of 100 in the chemical and petroleum products sector, and an increase of 2,300 since last year. Construction showed an increase of 200 for December, but is still 300 below last year's estimate. Wholesale and retail trade rose by 100 for this month due to seasonal hiring. The remaining segments of the economy showed little or no change from the previous month.

Unemployment should remain close to the current level for the next thirty days.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	55.9	55.9	55.9	0	0
MANUFACTURING	7.3	7.2	7.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.3	2.4	2.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.1	2.2	2.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	5.0	4.8	5.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.6	3.4	3.6	+ 0.2	0
MINING	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.5	2.5	3.0	0	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.5	2.6	2.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.3	15.3	15.4	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Retail Trade	11.5	11.5	11.6	0	- 0.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.4	3.2	3.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.2	1.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.6	4.6	4.5	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
SERVICES	11.4	11.5	11.0	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Health Services	4.7	4.7	4.5	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	11.8	11.7	11.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	11.2	11.1	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	5.2	5.1	5.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Local	6.0	6.0	5.8	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, estimated at 55,900, was unchanged from the November estimate.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,300, was up 100 workers over the month, but was 200 below a year ago.

Nonagricultural employment was down minimally, 100, over the month, but showed a gain of 200 for the year. Government, with a minimal gain of 100, was the only industry segment experiencing a gain. Services and transportation and public utilities each had losses of 100. Over the year, services and government experienced the largest gains, 400 each. Construction over the year lost an estimated 500 employees.

Over the next 30 days, employment is expected to decline slightly with the end of the holiday season. Unemployment is expected to rise due to seasonal conditions.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	511.6	510.6	516.3	+ 1.0	- 4.7
MANUFACTURING	42.4	42.3	44.7	+ 0.1	- 2.3
Durable Goods	21.0	20.7	21.4	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.3	1.3	1.5	0	- 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	2.3	2.3	2.6	0	- 0.3
Machinery	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
Transportation Equipment	12.5	12.2	12.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.6	8.3	8.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Nondurable Goods	21.4	21.6	23.3	- 0.2	- 1.9
Food & Kindred Products	6.6	6.6	7.4	0	- 0.8
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.6	1.7	1.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	0.9	0.9	1.1	0	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	3.6	3.7	3.6	- 0.1	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	3.7	3.7	4.1	0	- 0.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.6	4.6	4.8	0	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
MINING	15.8	16.0	16.2	- 0.2	- 0.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	14.8	15.0	15.3	- 0.2	- 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	22.2	22.4	23.9	- 0.2	- 1.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	43.0	43.0	42.3	0	+ 0.7
Railroad Transportation	1.6	1.6	1.8	0	- 0.2
Water Transportation	12.0	12.1	11.2	- 0.1	+ 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	135.4	133.9	137.2	+ 1.5	- 1.8
Wholesale Trade	31.6	31.5	32.3	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.1	18.0	18.8	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.5	13.5	13.5	0	0
Retail Trade	103.8	102.4	104.9	+ 1.4	- 1.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	33.7	33.7	33.7	0	0
Banking	7.2	7.2	7.3	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	134.8	135.0	132.7	- 0.2	+ 2.1
GOVERNMENT	84.3	84.3	85.6	0	- 1.3
Federal	15.6	15.6	15.6	0	0
State and Local	68.7	68.7	70.0	0	- 1.3
State	18.8	18.8	20.4	0	- 1.6
Local	49.9	49.9	49.6	0	+ 0.3

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**
All MANUFACTURING	$432.96	$428.67	$442.68	41.0	41.1	42.0	$10.56	$10.43	$10.54
Durable Goods	391.07	382.93	410.52	40.4	39.6	41.3	9.68	9.67	9.94
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	307.89	312.84	307.30	33.0	33.0	29.1	9.33	9.48	10.56
Fabricated Metal Products	421.58	398.67	485.44	42.2	41.1	44.7	9.99	9.70	10.86
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	366.22	359.29	391.77	40.2	38.8	41.9	9.11	9.26	9.35
Nondurable Goods	473.10	472.18	472.01	41.5	42.5	42.6	11.40	11.11	11.08
Food & Kindred Products	335.48	358.57	345.28	39.1	40.7	41.7	8.58	8.81	8.28
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	177.80	154.80	169.40	35.0	31.4	30.8	5.08	4.93	5.50
Paper & Allied Products	476.67	428.85	454.45	46.1	45.0	48.5	10.34	9.53	9.37
Printing & Publishing	362.99	357.44	351.12	39.2	42.3	38.5	9.26	8.45	9.12
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	731.14	731.73	700.58	44.5	46.4	46.0	16.43	15.77	15.23

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 29,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in December increased to 511,600, a level 1,000 above November. Seasonal increases in wholesale and retail trade were mostly responsible. Over the year, nonagricultural employment lost 4,700 workers, with most industry divisions showing a decrease.

Manufacturing employment totaled 42,400 in December, up 100 from the previous month. Durable goods showed an increase of 300 over the previous month. Ship and boat building and repairing was responsible for the increase. Nondurable goods was down 200 from the previous month with apparel and other textile products and printing and publishing being most affected by seasonal decreases.

Retail trade showed sizable seasonal increases primarily in apparel stores, eating and drinking establishments and miscellaneous retail stores. Wholesale trade showed minor gains mostly in durable goods. Partly offsetting gains, mining and construction made normal downward adjustments. Services were lowered by decreases in educational services and less business in the hotel-motel industries. Finance, insurance and real estate held steady. Transportation and public utilities and government showed no significant change.

Production workers in the area earned an averaged of $432.96 per week in December, up $4.29 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were down six minutes from the previous month, and average hourly earnings were up $0.13 over the previous month. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are down $9.72 in manufacturing.

Estimated unemployment in December decreased to 56,500, a level 500 below November. A decrease in the labor force was mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 9.4 percent of the labor force compared with 9.4 percent in November and 10.9 percent in December of last year. The December rate was lower than the state rate of 10.9 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 10,178.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will make downward adjustments characteristic of the close of the holiday season. Mining and construction will exhibit seasonal downward movement. Services is expected to show a decrease. Unemployment will probably show an increase.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1987*	Nov. 1987**	Dec. 1986**	Net Change From Nov. 1987	Net Change From Dec. 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	130.8	131.9	132.3	- 1.1	- 1.5
MANUFACTURING	18.0	18.0	18.6	0	- 0.6
Durable Goods	12.9	12.9	13.3	0	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Metals and Machinery	7.6	7.6	7.8	0	- 0.2
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.6	1.7	1.6	- 0.1	0
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	6.0	5.9	6.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Other Durable Goods	4.8	4.8	5.0	0	- 0.2
Nondurable Good	5.1	5.1	5.3	0	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.8	0	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
MINING	3.1	3.0	3.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	7.4	7.8	6.9	- 0.4	+ 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.8	7.8	8.4	0	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	30.5	30.2	31.2	+ 0.3	- 0.7
Wholesale Trade	7.3	7.2	7.7	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Retail Trade	23.2	23.1	23.5	+ 0.1	- 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.5	7.5	7.8	0	- 0.3
SERVICES	31.0	32.1	31.2	- 1.1	- 0.2
GOVERNMENT	25.5	25.4	25.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Federal	4.7	4.7	4.4	0	+ 0.3
State and Local	20.8	20.7	20.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State	6.4	6.4	6.2	0	+ 0.2
Local	14.4	14.3	14.4	+ 0.1	0

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**	Dec. '87*	Nov. '87**	Dec. '86**
All MANUFACTURING	$442.18	$442.32	$530.64	39.2	38.8	44.0	$11.28	$11.40	$12.06
Lumber and Wood Products	211.58	216.13	175.39	32.5	33.2	28.8	6.51	6.51	6.09
Metals and Machinery	449.51	456.62	658.37	39.5	39.5	50.8	11.38	11.56	12.96
Food and Kindred Products	303.75	316.71	312.89	40.5	40.5	40.9	7.50	7.82	7.65
Printing and Publishing	327.71	328.26	318.32	34.9	34.7	33.9	9.39	9.46	9.39
Petroleum and Coal Products	585.86	570.18	621.07	47.4	44.2	45.6	12.36	12.90	13.62

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 13,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Shreveport LMA decreased to 130,800, down 1,000 from the revised November estimate. Job losses in construction and services were significant and offset gains in other sectors.

Manufacturing employment, estimated at 18,000, remained unchanged from November, but fell 600 below the year ago estimate. The slight employment gains in machinery manufacturing were eliminated by small job losses in the production of primary and fabricated metals.

Nonmanufacturing employment declined to 112,800, down from the revised November estimate of 113,900, and the year ago estimate of 113,700. The small job increases in mining, trade and government only partially offset employment losses in construction and services. Construction employment dropped from 7,800 in November to 7,400, while services employment decreased from 32,100 in November to 31,000 in December. Most of this loss occurred when the racing season ended, causing a 900 payroll reduction.

An estimated 13,100 production workers in manufacturing in this labor market area had average weekly earnings of $442.18, slightly less than $442.32 in November, and below the year ago average of $530.64. The average weekly hours moved up from 38.8 in November to 39.2 in December. Average hourly earnings of $11.28 decreased from $11.40 in November and $12.06 one year ago.

The current civilian labor force consists of 147,600 employed and 17,700 unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area increased to 10.7 percent, up from 10.2 percent in November, but less than the December 1986 rate of 12.8 percent.

The outlook is for sluggish economic conditions to continue in this area throughout the first quarter of 1988. Total nonagricultural employment will likely remain near the present level, while total unemployment is expected to rise above 17,000.

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